

Take This Quiz! Find Your O*NET Interest Areas

It just makes sense that people are more satisfied in jobs with opportunities to do work that is interesting to them. The Department of Labor's O*NET system organizes occupations into six broad occupational interest groups:

REALISTIC	INVESTIGATIVE
ARTISTIC	CONVENTIONAL
SOCIAL	ENTERPRISING

This short survey is designed to help you discover the O*NET interest areas most closely related to the occupations you would find satisfying. This is simply an *activity*, not a validated assessment measure.*

There are no right or wrong answers and there is no best or worst interest area. Just follow the steps to find your highest career interest areas.

* For an accurate measure of your career interests, take the O*NET Interest Profiler, now available in the *Choices Planner* (see page 10.)

Step One: Circle the number of any item in the box below that is appealing to you. Leave the rest blank.

1. Farming	17. Buying clothes for a store	32. Building rocket model
2. Advanced math	18. Working a set daily schedule	33. Creative writing
3. Being in a play	19. Setting type for a printing job	34. Attending sports events
4. Studying people in other lands	20. Using a chemistry set	35. Being elected class president
5. Talking to people at a party	21. Reading art and music magazines	36. Using business machines
6. Word processing	22. Helping people solve personal problems	37. Building furniture
7. Auto mechanics	23. Selling life insurance	38. Doing puzzles
8. Astronomy	24. Typing reports	39. Fashion design
9. Drawing or painting	25. Driving a truck	40. Belonging to a club
10. Going to church	26. Working in a lab	41. Giving speeches
11. Work on a sales campaign	27. Playing music for others	42. Keeping detailed records
12. Using a cash register	28. Making new friends	43. Wildlife biology
13. Carpentry	29. Leading a group on a project	44. Researching a topic
14. Physics	30. Following a budget	45. Going to concerts
15. Foreign languages	31. Fixing electrical appliances	46. Working with old people
16. Teaching children		47. Sales
		48. Filing, organizing an office

Step Two: On the chart below, again circle the numbers of the items which appealed to you. After you have finished, count the numbers circled on each line, counting across. In which categories did you score high? Write the two highest categories on the lines below. These are the areas in which you have the most interest. (For example, if you scored highest in Social, and second highest in Artistic, your interest areas would be "SA". You would want to concentrate your career exploration efforts in those two categories.)

R = REALISTIC	1	7	13	19	25	31	37	43
I = INVESTIGATIVE	2	8	14	20	26	32	38	44
A = ARTISTIC	3	9	15	21	27	33	39	45
S = SOCIAL	4	10	16	22	28	34	40	46
E = ENTERPRISING	5	11	17	23	29	35	41	47
C = CONVENTIONAL	6	12	18	24	30	36	42	48

I scored highest in _____, second highest in _____.

Now, look for occupations in these areas on the Career Chart in this magazine.

On the Web The U. S. Department of Labor developed the *O*NET Interest Profiler* to help people discover their career interests. You can take the on-line version of the *Interest Profiler*, and see related occupations, by visiting www.online.onetcenter.org or by using the *Choices* program (see page 10).

O*NET Interest Areas

Descriptions

REALISTIC

- Robust, rugged, practical, physically strong
- Uncomfortable in social settings
- Good motor coordination
- Weak verbal and interpersonal skills
- See themselves as mechanically and athletically inclined
- Stable, natural, persistent
- Prefer concrete to abstract problems
- Have conventional political and economic goals
- Rarely perform creatively in the arts or science
- Like to build things with tools
- Like to work outdoors
- Cool to radical new ideas
- Like to work with big, powerful machines
- Buy boats, campers, snowmobiles, motorcycles

SOCIAL

- Sociable, responsible, humanistic, religious
- Like to work in groups
- Have verbal and interpersonal skills
- Avoid both intellectual problem-solving and physical exertion
- Enjoy healing, developing, training, or enlightening others
- Understanding, helpful, idealistic
- Dislike working with machines or in highly structured situations
- Like to discuss philosophic questions
- Concerned with the welfare of others
- Cooperative, friendly, generous
- Attend workshops, other group experiences

INVESTIGATIVE

- Scientific orientation
- Task-oriented, all wrapped up in their work
- Introspective and asocial
- Think through rather than act out a problem
- Strong need to understand the world
- Enjoy ambiguous tasks
- Prefer to work independently
- Have unconventional attitudes
- See themselves as lacking in leadership skills
- Confident of their intellectual abilities
- Analytical, curious, reserved, independent
- Great dislike for repetitive activities
- Buy telescopes, calculators, electronic equipment

ENTERPRISING

- Good verbal skills, persuasive
- Strong leaders
- Avoid work involving long periods of intellectual effort
- Strong drive to attain organizational goals
- Concerned with power, status, and leadership
- Aggressive, popular, sociable, self-confident
- High energy level
- Adventuresome, ambitious
- Enjoy making things happen
- Value money and material possessions
- Dislike science and systematic thinking
- Buy big cars, nice clothes, country club memberships

ARTISTIC

- Like art, music, drama, other creative interests
- Prefer free, unstructured situations
- Impulsive, non-conforming, independent
- Adverse to rules
- Deal with problems through self-expression in art
- Value beauty and aesthetic qualities
- Expressive, original, intuitive
- Like to work in free environments
- Like small, intimate groups
- Willing to take risks to try something new
- Dress in freer styles than other people
- Have need for individualistic expression
- Not assertive about own capabilities
- Sensitive and emotional
- Spend money on art objects—books, paintings, DVDs, CDs

CONVENTIONAL

- Prefer well-ordered environments
- Like systematic, verbal and numerical activities
- Avoid ambiguous situations and problems
- Conscientious, efficient, practical
- Identify with power
- Value material possessions and status
- Orderly, persistent, calm
- Adverse to free, unsystematic, exploratory behavior in new areas
- Do not seek outside leadership
- Stable, controlled, dependable
- Most effective at well-defined tasks
- Save money, buy conservatively